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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,205	01/12/2005	Kyoichi Sasaki	WATAB1.002APC	9027
29995 7590 08/22/2008 KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP 2040 MAIN STREET FOURTEENTH FLOOR IRVINE, CA 92614				
EXAMINER				
TRAN, HOANG Q				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2874				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/22/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcartee@kmob.com
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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/521,205

Applicant(s)

SASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

HOANG TRAN

Art Unit

2874

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/01/2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 18-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 18-22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over the US Patent to Yamakawa (5,600,747).

In terms of claims 4, Yamakawa discloses an optical fiber connection structure wherein optical fibers (49), shown in Fig. 19A, are connected by means of a component for connecting optical fibers comprising two plugs (14), into which at least one optical fiber has been inserted respectively for aligning said optical fibers and connecting them, and an adapter (54) for fixing said plugs, which comprises that the plugs are fixed to the adapter by attaching each plug into which the optical fiber has been inserted to the adapter in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of the optical fiber. The plug or adapter is equipped with a latch member (53) and the other has a latch engaging section (Rear portion of cylinder portion 14). The plug or adapter has a guide(s) (57) for alignment and the other is equipped with a member for alignment with engages with said guide. The plugs and adapter have a through-hole (Figure 13b: '6') for alignment (Central portion [1]), said through-hole ('6') being capable of being slidably inserted by a guide pin (Figure 28: '7') therein, and the plug is fixed to the adapter by inserting the

guide through said through hole of into said through after plug is attached to the adapter (Figure 13b shows the plug is attached to adapter) wherein Figure 28 shows the holes ('6') goes through the plug completed hence the a pin can slide into the holes at any time of assembly.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 18-22 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In regards to Claim 1, the closest prior art of record is to Yamakawa (5,600,747 US) and Shimoji (6,435,728 US). However Yamakawa and Shimoji either alone or in combination is silent an optical ferrule wherein said ends of opposed ferrules brought face to face with each other are located inside said ferrule aligning member as a result of sliding the ferrule aligning member in the direction of the center axis of the optical fiber after the plugs are attached to the adapter. Claims 2 and 3 depends on Claim 1.

Claims 18 and 19 are allowable over the prior art because the closest prior art of record to Yamakawa (5,600,747 US) and Shimoji (6,435,728 US) are silent to the method steps limitation as claimed in 18 and 19 wherein sliding the ferrule aligning member in a direction of the center axis of the optical fiber so that the ends of the opposed ferrules are located inside said ferrule aligning member. Claims 20 depend on 18 or 19.

Claims 21 are allowable over the prior art because the closest prior art of record to Yamakawa (5,600,747 US) and Shimoji (6,435,728 US) are silent to the method step

of wherein sliding the slid able member comprises, inserting another guide pin to the through-hole(s) in one edge of said adapter to forcibly push said guide pin already inserted in the plug, thereby fixing the opposed plugs to the adapter. Claims 22 depend on Claim 21.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, and 4 have been considered by the examiner. The examiner has issue new grounds of rejection base on the newly amended limitations filed in regard to Claim 4. In regards to Claim 1, have been indicated as allowable over the prior art base on the reason(s) of allowance stated above.

Newly submitted claims 18 -22 have also been indicated as allowable for the reason(s) cited above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HOANG TRAN whose telephone number is (571)272-5049. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on 571-272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2874

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hoang Tran/
Examiner, Art Unit 2874

/Sung H. Pak/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2874

Application Number**Application/Control No.**

10/521,205

Examiner

HOANG TRAN

**Applicant(s)/Patent under
Reexamination**

SASAKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2874